

Publisher's Note



All praise is due to Allah; we praise Him and seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own selves and from our sinful deeds. Whomever Allah guides, there is none to misguide him; and whomever He leads astray, none can guide him. We bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, alone, and we bear witness that Muhammad (ﷺ) is His servant and Messenger. We pray to Allah the Almighty to bestow His peace and blessings upon Prophet Muhammad, upon his good and pure family, as well as upon all the noble Companions and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgement.

The present series covers a number of interesting topics that affect our everyday lives, and it is geared towards Muslim children born and brought up in the West, as well as Muslim children and adults in all parts of the world.

As colourful artwork appeals to children, we have produced the present series in beautiful colour illustrations that are bound to attract the young readers' attention, stimulate them and amuse them. We have, at times, used pictures of human beings and animals for the same purpose, but with the heads separated from the bodies, after consulting with some Muslim scholars from Al-Madinah, Saudi Arabia, who approved doing so as long as these publications are geared towards a younger audience. This will certainly stimulate young Muslim readers and amuse them, now that we live in a world that abounds with attractive publications that are, in the main, meant to pollute their thinking and keep them away from the right track.

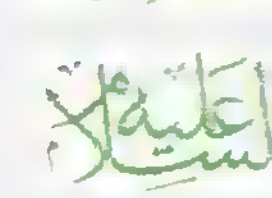
Our aim here is to provide an alternative that is purely Islamic and, at the same time, one that keeps up with the latest advances in material production to stay level with non-Muslim publications.

We pray to Allah to reward our endeavours and to make the present series abundantly beneficial to our young readers.

These are Arabic writings used as symbols:



Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him



Peace be upon him



May Allah be pleased with him



May Allah be pleased with her

Al- Humazah (The Slanderer)

Cursed is the backbiting slanderer!

Who has collected wealth and keeps on counting it.

He thinks that his wealth will help him to live forever!

No, surely, he will be thrown into the Crushing One!

And what can teach you what the Crushing One is?

It is the fire of **Allâh**, lit,

Which leaps up around the hearts.

Surely, it closes in on them (from every side),

In turning columns.

To **slander**
or
to **backbite**
mean two different things.

Backbiting is when you say **unkind words** about someone who is not there, even if this is true.



Slandering someone is
spreading things that are **not true**
about him.



Surat **Al-Humazah** describes the **punishment** of the one who **slanders** and **backbites** people.



Allâh tells us in other verses of the **Qur'an** that we should not slander and backbite others. In Surat **Al-Hujuraat**, He states,
"Do not backbite each other."
(49:12)



Allâh warns us against **slandering** and **backbiting** because when we do so, it is like we attack other people and **look** at their **faults**.



Doing so **makes** a person **feel bad** and **look bad** to others. This also leads other people to speak **ill** of that **person**.

